

Congressional Budget Office

June 2014

Anatomy of a Cost Estimate for Legislation Funding Transportation Programs

An explanation of the cost estimate for the conference report for the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21; Public Law 112-141)

Identifying all of the budgetary effects of legislation funding transportation programs can be complicated because those programs have split budgetary treatment.

Their budget authority is classified as mandatory and their outlays are classified as discretionary.

CBO's cost estimates show the incremental effects of legislation relative to what would occur under current law or, for certain programs, what is assumed in CBO's baseline projections.

As a result, the effects shown in the cost estimate differ from the total cost to the Treasury of implementing the legislation because some of the effects of the legislation are assumed in CBO's baseline projections (as required by the laws that govern those projections).

Places to Look for Information in CBO's Cost Estimate for MAP-21

What effects are considered in **enforcing budget rules**?



Table 1. Changes in Direct Spending and Revenues

How much **spending** is authorized from the Highway Trust Fund?



Table 2. Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation

What will the balances in the Highway Trust Fund be under the bill?



Table 3. Summary of Cash Flows in the Highway Trust Fund

Table 1. Changes in Direct (Mandatory) Spending and Revenues

Pay-As-You-Go rules are enforced on the basis of the effects of legislation on direct (or mandatory) spending and revenues.

Direct spending is the budget authority provided by laws other than appropriation acts and the outlays that result from that budget authority.

Contract authority is one type of mandatory budget authority. It is the authority to obligate funds in advance of an appropriation act.

Table 1 Has Two Parts

TABLE 1. ESTIMATE OF THE EFFECTS ON DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

Cha	anges in
Direct S	pending

				I	By Fisc	al Year	, in Mi	llions c	of Dolla	ırs			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012- 2017	2012- 2022
		CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING											
Transportation Contract Authority													
Budget Authority	0	388	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	4,716	10,126
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Changes in Revenues

	CHANGES IN REVENUES												
Pension Provisions	595	2,391	4,501	5,044	3,540	1,446	74	-882	-2,303	-3,046	-2,616	17,517	8,744
Transfer of Excess Pension Assets and Allow Section 420 to Apply to Life Insurance Benefits	0	0	20	41	42	43	44	45	47	48	24	145	354
Phased Retirement	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	3	3	1	-1	14	24
Expand Definition of Tobacco Manufacturer to Include Roll- Your-Own-Cigarette Machines	2	12	13	11	10	9	8	7	7	7	7	57	94
Increased Civil Penalties for Lenders	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
Total Changes On-budget Revenues Off-budget Revenues			4,324	5,100 4,888 212		<i>'</i>	141		-2,245 -1,998 -247	-2,989 -2,712 -277	<i>'</i>	17,738 16,946 792	9,226 9,299 -73

Changes in Direct Spending: "The Score"

TABLE 1. ESTIMATE H.R. 4348, I													
					By F	iscal Yea	ır, in Mil	lions of I	Oollars				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012- 2017	2012- 2022
	CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING												
Transportation Contract Authority													
Budget Authority	0	388	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	4,716	10,126
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The cost estimate shows the increase in contract authority for the years covered by MAP-21 (2013 and 2014) and the resulting increase in the baseline for subsequent years. Those increases total about \$1 billion a year after 2013.

How Are the Budget Authority Amounts in Table 1 Calculated?

	Years Cove	•	Assumptions Contained in CBO's Baseline							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baseline Contract Authority (Before MAP-21)	50,158	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852	50,852
Contract Authority										
Provided by MAP-21	50,545	51,934								
Assumed in the baseline after MAP-21			51,934	51,934	51,934	51,934	51,934	51,934	51,934	51,934
Difference (Shown in Table 1)	388	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082	1,082

(This table does not appear in the original cost estimate.)

As required by law, CBO's baseline reflects the assumption that most mandatory programs (including programs funded from the Highway Trust Fund) that expire on specific dates will continue to operate as they did immediately before their expiration.

Total Contract Authority Provided by the Bill Differs From the Increase Shown in CBO's Cost Estimate

Footnote a to Table 1 shows the total estimated authority to spend stemming from the bill:

"H.R. 4348 would provide \$12.4 billion in contract authority (a mandatory form of budget authority) for the last quarter of fiscal year 2012, \$50.5 billion for fiscal year 2013, and \$51.9 billion for fiscal year 2014, CBO estimates."

CBO estimated that the bill provided \$102 billion in contract authority in 2013 and 2014, but the increase over 10 years relative to CBO's baseline was only \$10.1 billion.

Estimated Outlays in Table 1 Are Zero

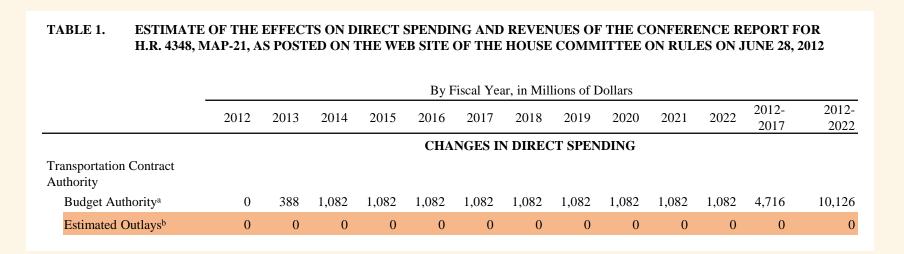


Table 1 records no outlays from changes in direct spending because CBO assumes that contract authority provided by the bill will continue to be controlled by limitations on obligations contained in appropriation acts.

Outlays are shown in Table 2 as discretionary spending.

The **obligation limitations** set in appropriation acts control the amount of contract authority that can be used in any given year. The spending subject to that obligation limitation is recorded as discretionary outlays when it occurs.

Spending Derived From Permanent Authority

A small portion of spending for highway programs is exempt from the obligation limitation. The **outlays from that spending are mandatory**. However, because those amounts are already contained in the baseline, they do not appear in Table 1. They total \$739 million per year, CBO estimates.

The Budgetary Effects of Revenue Provisions: Treatment of Excise Taxes on Motor Fuels

The taxes credited to the Highway Trust Fund are excise taxes.

As required by law, CBO's baseline reflects the assumption that expiring excise taxes dedicated to trust funds will be extended beyond their expiration. As a result, when MAP-21 extended those taxes, the effects of those extensions were not shown in the cost estimate, which shows only the changes relative to CBO's baseline.

Table 2. Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation (Discretionary Spending)

Obligation limitations are set and controlled through the appropriation process. Therefore, spending from the Highway Trust Fund, which is subject to those limitations, is also considered to be subject to future appropriation action.

Thus, **outlays** stemming from the bill's authorizations are shown as **discretionary**.

Table 2 Shows New Spending From the Highway Trust Fund and From General Appropriations

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE RULES COMMITTEE WEB SITE ON JUNE 28, 2012

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
						2013-					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017					
	CHA	NGES 1	N SPEN	DING SU	J BJECT	TO					
		A	PPROP	RIATION	N						
Spending from the Highway Trust Fund											
Estimated Obligation Limitation	49,409	50,103	0	0	0	99,512					
Estimated Outlays	12,318	31,794	27,318	12,134	6,780	90,344					
Other Authorized Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	2,697	2,198	0	0	0	4,895					
Estimated Outlays	379	1,011	1,168	817	618	3,993					
Non-Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	438	437	437	437	437	2,186					
Estimated Outlays	80	245	337	431	435	1,528					
Total Changes											
Estimated Budgetary Resources	52,544	52,738	437	437	437	106,593					
Estimated Outlays	12,777	33,050	28,823	13,382	7,833	95,865					
-											

Spending from the authority to obligate funds that would be subject to future appropriation action is shown in Table 2.

The Obligation Limitation: About \$100 Billion

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE RULES COMMITTEE WEB SITE ON JUNE 28, 2012

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2013-					
	2013	2014		2016	2017	2017					
	CHA			DING SU		TO					
	APPROPRIATION										
Spending from the Highway Trust Fund											
Estimated Obligation Limitation	49,409	50,103	0	0	0	99,512					
Estimated Outlays	12,318	31,794	27,318	12,134	6,780	90,344					
Other Authorized Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	2,697	2,198	0	0	0	4,895					
Estimated Outlays	379	1,011	1,168	817	618	3,993					
Non-Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	438	437	437	437	437	2,180					
Estimated Outlays	80	245	337	431	435	1,528					
Total Changes											
Estimated Budgetary Resources	52,544	52,738	437	437	437	106,593					
Estimated Outlays	12,777	33,050	28,823	13,382	7.833	95,86					

CBO estimated that MAP-21 would authorize future obligation limitations totaling about \$100 billion for 2013 and 2014.

Ultimately, the obligation limitations are set in appropriation acts.

The Obligation Limitation: Outlays of \$90 Billion

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE RULES COMMITTEE WEB SITE ON JUNE 28, 2012

]	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
						2013-						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017						
	CHA			DING SU		OT						
		APPROPRIATION										
Spending from the Highway Trust Fund												
Estimated Obligation Limitation	49,409	50,103	0	0	0	99,512						
Estimated Outlays	12,318	31,794	27,318	12,134	6,780	90,344						
Other Authorized Transportation Programs												
Estimated Authorization Level	2,697	2,198	0	0	0	4,895						
Estimated Outlays	379	1,011	1,168	817	618	3,993						
Non-Transportation Programs												
Estimated Authorization Level	438	437	437	437	437	2,186						
Estimated Outlays	80	245	337	431	435	1,528						
Total Changes												
Estimated Budgetary Resources	52,544	52,738	437	437	437	106,593						
Estimated Outlays	12,777	33,050	28,823	13,382	7,833	95,865						

About \$90 billion
would be spent from
the Highway Trust
Fund from 2013 to
2017 as a result of
the bill's provisions.

Additional amounts would be spent after 2017.

Other Spending for Transportation Programs

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE RULES COMMITTEE WEB SITE ON JUNE 28, 2012

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
						2013-					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017					
	CHA			DING SU		OT					
	APPROPRIATION										
Spending from the Highway Trust Fund											
Estimated Obligation Limitation	49,409	50,103	0	0	0	99,512					
Estimated Outlays	12,318	31,794	27,318	12,134	6,780	90,344					
Other Authorized Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	2,697	2,198	0	0	0	4,895					
Estimated Outlays	379	1,011	1,168	817	618	3,993					
Non-Transportation Programs											
Estimated Authorization Level	438	437	437	437	437	2,186					
Estimated Outlays	80	245	337	431	435	1,528					
Total Changes											
Estimated Budgetary Resources	52,544	52,738	437	437	437	106,593					
Estimated Outlays	12,777	33,050	28,823	13,382	7,833	95,865					

The bill authorized the future appropriation of about \$5 billion for other transportation programs.

From 2013 to 2017, about \$4 billion would be spent.

Total Discretionary Outlays

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE RULES COMMITTEE WEB SITE ON JUNE 28, 2012

]	By Fiscal	Year, in	Millions	of Dolla	rs
						2013-
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017
	CHA	ANGES I	N SPEN	DING SU	JBJECT	OT
		A	PPROP	RIATION	1	
Spending from the Highway Trust Fund						
Estimated Obligation Limitation	49,409	50,103	0	0	0	99,512
Estimated Outlays	12,318	31,794	27,318	12,134	6,780	90,344
Other Authorized Transportation Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	2,697	2,198	0	0	0	4,895
Estimated Outlays	379	1,011	1,168	817	618	3,993
Non-Transportation Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	438	437	437	437	437	2,186
Estimated Outlays	80	245	337	431	435	1,528
Total Changes						
Estimated Budgetary Resources	52,544	52,738	437	437	437	106,593
Estimated Outlays	12,777	33,050	28,823	13,382	7,833	95,865

Outlays would total about \$96 billion, of which \$90 billion would come from the Highway Trust Fund.

Table 3.
Summary of Cash Flows in the
Highway Trust Fund Under the
Provisions of MAP-21
(Status of the Highway Trust Fund)

The Highway Trust Fund: Two Accounts

The highway account is for highway construction and highway safety programs.

The transit account is for transit programs.

FABLE 3. SUMMARY OF CASH FLOWS FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND UNDER H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

_]	By Fisca	al Year,	in Billi	ons of I	Oollars			
_	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Highway Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	14	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	C
Revenues and Interest	33	33	33	34	35	36	36	36	36	37	37
Intragovernmental Transfers	2	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C
Outlays ^{a,b}	42	43	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47
End-of-Year Balance	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	C
Transit Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	7	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	C
Revenues and Interest	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Intragovernmental Transfers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C
Outlays ^{a,b}	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10
End-of-Year Balance	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	C
Memorandum:											
Cumulative Shortfall ^c											
Highway Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-6	-15	-24	-33	-42	-52	-62	-72
Transit Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-3	-7	-12	-16	-20	-24	-29	-33

Notes: n.a. = not applicable.

Contract authority is a mandatory form of budget authority typically provided in authorization acts.

Obligation limitations are limitations on the obligation of contract authority typically provided in appropriation acts.

- a. After 2014, the estimated outlays assume obligations will continue at the 2014 level, adjusted for inflation. The total outlays shown reflect prior and future obligations.
- b. Outlays include amounts "flexed" or transferred between the highway and transit accounts. CBO estimates that amount would total about \$1 billion annually.
- c. CBO projects that, under provisions of the Conference Report for H.R. 4348, the highway account and the transit account of the Highway Trust Fund would be exhausted in fiscal year 2015. Under current law, the Highway Trust Fund cannot incur negative balances. However, following rules in the Deficit Control Act of 1985, CBO's baseline for highway spending assumes that obligations presented to the Highway Trust Fund will be paid in full. The memorandum to this table illustrates the cumulative shortfall of fund balances, assuming spending levels that would be authorized by the Conference Report for H.R. 4348.

As required by law, baseline projections for discretionary resources (like obligation limitations) reflect the assumption that amounts appropriated in future years equal the amounts provided for the current year, adjusted for inflation.

The Highway Trust Fund: Outlays

Outlays shown in Table 2



Outlays from prior transportation bills



Outlays from obligation limitations projected by CBO in the baseline

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF CASH FLOWS FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND UNDER H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

_]	By Fisca	al Year,	in Billi	ons of I	Oollars			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Highway Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	14	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	33	33	33	34	35	36	36	36	36	37	37
Intragovernmental Transfers	2	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	42	43	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47
End-of-Year Balance	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Transit Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	7	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Intragovernmental Transfers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10
End-of-Year Balance	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Memorandum:											
Cumulative Shortfall ^c											
Highway Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-6	-15	-24	-33	-42	-52	-62	-72
Transit Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-3	-7	-12	-16	-20	-24	-29	-33

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The Highway Trust Fund: Revenues and Interest

Table 3 shows revenues credited to the Highway Trust Fund as a result of **MAP-21** extending the excise taxes dedicated to the fund from 2013 through 2016.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF CASH FLOWS FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND UNDER H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

_	By Fiscal Year, in Billions of Dollars										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Highway Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	14	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	33	33	33	34	35	36	36	36	36	37	37
Intragovernmental Transfers	2	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	42	43	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47
End-of-Year Balance	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Transit Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	7	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Intragovernmental Transfers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10
End-of-Year Balance	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Memorandum:											
Cumulative Shortfall ^c											
Highway Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-6	-15	-24	-33	-42	-52	-62	-72
Transit Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-3	-7	-12	-16	-20	-24	-29	-33

Notes: n.a. = not applicable.

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- c. CBO projects that, under provisions of the Conference Report for H.R. 4348, the highway account and the transit account of the Highway Trust Fund would be exhausted in fiscal year 2015. Under current law, the Highway Trust Fund cannot incur negative balances. However, following rules in the Deficit Control Act of 1985, CBO's baseline for highway spending assumes that obligations presented to the Highway Trust Fund will be paid in full. The memorandum to this table illustrates the cumulative shortfall of fund balances, assuming spending levels that would be authorized by the Conference Report for H.R. 4348.

The Highway Trust Fund: Revenues and Interest

The further extension of excise taxes credited to the Highway Trust Fund from 2017 through 2022 would be assumed in the baseline.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF CASH FLOWS FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND UNDER H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

_	By Fiscal Year, in Billions of Dollars										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Highway Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	14	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	33	33	33	34	35	36	36	36	36	37	37
Intragovernmental Transfers	2	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	42	43	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47
End-of-Year Balance	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Transit Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	7	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Intragovernmental Transfers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10
End-of-Year Balance	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Memorandum:											
Cumulative Shortfall ^c											
Highway Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-6	-15	-24	-33	-42	-52	-62	-72
Transit Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-3	-7	-12	-16	-20	-24	-29	-33

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Contract authority is a mandatory form of budget authority typically provided in authorization acts.

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The Highway Trust Fund: Cumulative Shortfall

The Highway Trust
Fund cannot incur
negative balances
and has no authority
to borrow additional
funds. The cumulative
shortfall is shown in
the memorandum.

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF CASH FLOWS FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND UNDER H.R. 4348, MAP-21, AS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON JUNE 28, 2012

_	By Fiscal Year, in Billions of Dollars										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Highway Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	14	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	33	33	33	34	35	36	36	36	36	37	37
Intragovermental Transfers	2	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	42	43	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47
End-of-Year Balance	8	4	4	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Transit Account											
Start-of-Year Balance	7	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Revenues and Interest	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Intragovernmental Transfers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays ^{a,b}	7	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	9	10	10
End-of-Year Balance	5	5	1	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Memorandum:											
Cumulative Shortfall ^c											
Highway Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-6	-15	-24	-33	-42	-52	-62	-72
Transit Account Shortfall	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-3	-7	-12	-16	-20	-24	-29	-33

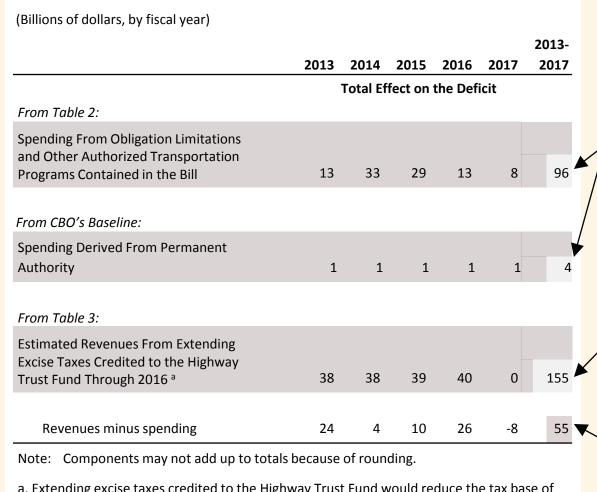
Notes: n.a. = not applicable.

Contract authority is a mandatory form of budget authority typically provided in authorization acts.

Obligation limitations are limitations on the obligation of contract authority typically provided in appropriation acts.

- a. After 2014, the estimated outlays assume obligations will continue at the 2014 level, adjusted for inflation. The total outlays shown reflect prior and future obligations.
- b. Outlays include amounts "flexed" or transferred between the highway and transit accounts. CBO estimates that amount would total about \$1 billion annually.
- c. CBO projects that, under provisions of the Conference Report for H.R. 4348, the highway account and the transit account of the Highway Trust Fund would be exhausted in fiscal year 2015. Under current law, the Highway Trust Fund cannot incur negative balances. However, following rules in the Deficit Control Act of 1985, CBO's baseline for highway spending assumes that obligations presented to the Highway Trust Fund will be paid in full. The memorandum to this table illustrates the cumulative shortfall of fund balances, assuming spending levels that would be authorized by the Conference Report for H.R. 4348.

Net Cash Flows (Cost) to the Treasury



a. Extending excise taxes credited to the Highway Trust Fund would reduce the tax base of income and payroll taxes, leading to reductions in income and payroll tax revenues. The estimates shown here do not reflect those reductions.

(This table does not appear in the original cost estimate.)

The combination of spending subject to appropriation shown in Table 2 (\$96 billion) plus spending from permanent authority (\$4 billion)...

... and the **revenues** credited to the fund (through 2016) shown in Table 3 (**\$155 billion**) . . .

the **net effect** (\$55 billion)
of the transportation
provisions of the bill
through 2017.

Net Cash Flows (Cost) to the Treasury: Four Years of Revenues and Two Years of Spending

The estimated gain in revenues (\$155 billion), through 2017, exceeds the increase in outlays (\$100 billion) because the taxes would be extended for four years by MAP-21 but the spending would be set for only two years. In addition, some of the spending from those obligation limitations would occur after 2017.

Note

Any increase in the taxes credited to the Highway Trust Fund would result in a corresponding decrease in general fund revenues of about 25 percent of the higher trust fund revenues. (See Joint Committee on Taxation, *New Income and Payroll Tax Offsets to Changes in Excise Tax Revenues for 2014–2024* (February 2014), http://go.usa.gov/85Zk.)

About This Document

This slide deck supplements CBO's report *The Highway Trust Fund and the Treatment of Surface Transportation Programs in the Federal Budget* (June 2014), www.cbo.gov/publication/45416.

Sarah Puro prepared this slide deck with production assistance from Jeanine Rees. Jonathan Schwabish, formerly of CBO, also provided helpful assistance.

Sarah Puro prepared the cost estimate, released on June 29, 2012. It is available on CBO's website at www.cbo.gov/publication/43368.